

Hedrick (B.S.) Green (J.M.), and
Johnson (Jos T.)

THE ADDRESSES

DELIVERED AT THE

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

OF THE

Medical Department

OF

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY,

BY

Prof. BENJ. S. HEDRICK, M. A., Ph. D.; J. M. GREEN, M. D.
and JOSEPH TABER JOHNSON, A. M., M. D.

MARCH 16, 1875.



WASHINGTON, D. C.

R. BERESFORD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER, 628 F STREET.

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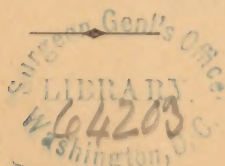
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY,

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MARCH 16, 1875.

*Presented by
A H Glennan,*



WASHINGTON, D. C.

R. BERESFORD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER, 623 F STREET.

1875.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17, 1875.

DEAR SIR:

In behalf of the class which we have the honor to represent, we respectfully request a copy of your able and very instructive address, delivered at the Twenty-sixth Annual Commencement of the Medical Department, University of Georgetown, for publication.

With assurances of high regard,

We remain your obedient servants,

C. C. ELLIS,
DOUGLAS BINNS,
E. C. MORGAN,
PHILIP CARROLL,

Committee.

BENJAMIN S. HEDRICK, M. A., Ph. D.,

Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17, 1875.

GENTLEMEN:

With thanks for your complimentary request, I herewith place my address at your disposal.

Hoping that it merits your favorable opinion,

I am, most sincerely and faithfully, yours,

BENJAMIN S. HEDRICK.

C. C. ELLIS,
DOUGLAS BINNS,
E. C. MORGAN,
PHILIP CARROLL,

Committee.

WASHINGTON, *March 17, 1875.*

DEAR SIR:

In behalf of the "Medical Society of the Alumni" I respectfully solicit for publication a copy of the address delivered by you at the Twenty-sixth Annual Commencement of the Medical Department of Georgetown College.

Very truly yours,

J. A. McCAULEY, M. D.,

Corresponding Secretary Medical Society of the Alumni.

JOSEPH TABER JOHNSON, M. D.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 17, 1875.*

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note, requesting a copy of my address, delivered at the Twenty-sixth Annual Commencement of the Medical Department of Georgetown College, for publication.

In reply, I herewith enclose a copy of the address.

Please accept my warmest thanks, and believe me,

Ever faithfully yours,

JOS. TABER JOHNSON, M. D.

J. A. McCAULEY, M. D.,

Corresponding Secretary Medical Society of the Alumni.

WASHINGTON, *March 17, 1875.*

DEAR SIR:

We have been delegated by our fellow-students to express their hearty appreciation of your Valedictory Address, delivered at the Twenty-sixth Annual Commencement of the Medical Department, University of Georgetown, and respectfully request a copy of the same for publication.

With sincere respect,

Your obedient servants,

C. C. ELLIS,
DOUGLAS BINNS,
E. C. MORGAN,
PHILIP CARROLL,

Committee.

J. M. GREEN, M. D.,

Valedictorian Class of 1875.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 17, 1875.*

GENTLEMEN:

Your polite note in behalf of your class, requesting a copy of my address is received.

I accede with pleasure, not forgetting to return heartfelt thanks for the appreciation you have been pleased to express.

Yours, very truly,

J. M. GREEN.

C. C. ELLIS,
DOUGLAS BINNS,
E. C. MORGAN,
PHILIP CARROLL,

Committee.

THE ADDRESS
OF
BENJ. S. HEDRICK, M. A., PH. D.,

Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS:

My brethren of the Faculty have imposed upon me the honorable task of welcoming you among our ancient fraternity. It is an occasion for rejoicing and congratulation. We extend to you a hearty greeting. These friends here assembled do the same in a more expressive manner than any language I can employ. All the surroundings are calculated to make a deep and lasting impression upon your memories. We recall with pleasure the hours we have spent together. The Faculty are glad of the opportunity of giving this public indorsement of your fitness to begin the practice of the noble and laborious profession of medicine. All here assembled join in sincere wishes for your future success. Our venerable institution of learning now enrolls you among her honored children, and will rejoice in your success, and grieve at any misfortune that may overtake you. She will, so far as possible, encourage you in all your efforts for high and honorable achievement.

You have already had a foretaste of the labor that awaits you. You know also the importance of the work in which you are engaged. It has commanded the respect of the wise and good of all ages. Our science ranks among the oldest, if it is not the oldest cultivated by our race. It has claimed the thought and labor of probably one-fourth of the

educated talent of the world. Its progress has been slow. The reason for this lies mainly in the peculiar difficulties attending it. The poet, it has been said, is born; the orator is made; the physician must grow. He is the resultant growth of the centuries, though he appears only to-day. This growth must come of so many favorable circumstances, surroundings and aids, that the time required is one of the best assurances of its durability. The preparatory education must equal that of any of the learned professions, and the number of branches required far exceeds that of any other. The general advancement of the science of medicine depends upon the development of so many kindred arts and sciences that it has been hindered and delayed at every point. Many of these kindred arts and sciences are still in their infancy. The poets and orators of ancient times were as well furnished for their work as their most favored brethren of the present day. Not so with the physicians, surgeons, chemists, physiologists and pharmacists. Two of these sciences, chemistry and physiology, are now making such rapid advances that only the most diligent student can keep up with their march. Chemistry has always had a close connection with medicine, but, unfortunately, until within the last hundred years it was itself a mere disconnected mass of facts, and little able to render assistance to other sciences. The chemists all over the world celebrated their centennial during the year just past. In reviewing this period, any one will be impressed with the great number of preparations which have been given to medicine by chemistry. These, when taken with the new facts ascertained by the physiologists, constitute the latest and most important advances in the medical art. A few years ago carbolic and salicylic acids, the hydrate of chloral, the hydrates and nitrites of methyl and amyl were terms wholly unknown to the *materia medica*. Now they are used everywhere, and in the hands of the educated physician become most important agents. There are now some two hundred alkaloids in use in medicine. Most of these have been contributed by the labors of the chemists, and

when thoroughly proved by the skill of the practitioner have been incorporated in the materia medica. At various times in the past the chemist and the doctor were at variance. Now they are becoming as one. This is for the advantage of both.

In taking leave of you and sending you forth to your labors, it may be proper for me to give some advice, and utter a few words of warning. I have already alluded to the immensity of the field you are to occupy, and the vastness of the stores of learning and science you are to employ in your work. It is not expected that you shall master all of these. But it is expected that to the general knowledge you now have, you continue to add such new matters from the related sciences as will enable you to keep in the front rank of your profession. In many cases it is your part to make useful to the race the principles and facts developed and recorded by special cultivators of chemistry, physiology and all the related sciences. When they make mistakes you will often be able to detect them. For the test of the real value of these things must be your judgment to approve or to disapprove.

In the way of warning, let me caution you against a few sources of error into which others have fallen. Be not too firmly bound to the most authoritative dogmas. It was once the opprobrium of the doctors that it was better that the patient die than the rules of medicine be violated. The weight of authority will not now long avail in the face of intelligent observation. For two hundred years it was held that a fever patient must not be permitted to drink water. Van Helmont, who was a physician, and also an eminent chemist of his day, observed that the decay of all organic matters was hastened by the presence of moisture. Fever, he said, is only a form of decay. Therefore avoid water. This doctrine was sufficient to hold in bondage the medical faculty for centuries. We have changed all that.

Another source of error you must be careful to avoid. Do not seek facts simply to confirm previously conceived

opinions or theories. You must observe more or less with a special view to establish or controvert hypotheses and doctrines. But these need not blind you so as to prevent your seeing the facts as they are.

Nearly twenty-four years ago a tornado passed just north of the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts. At that time the different investigators of the theory of storms held doctrines directly opposite, as to whether great heat or cold was the consequence of the violent currents of the air existing in the tornado. The morning after the storm the advocates of these opposing theories visited the spot where its effects were most marked. In an orchard were found a quantity of apples which had been shaken from the trees. Those who held that great heat was developed by the storm found a full confirmation of their theory, for they observed that the apples had been scalded. The advocates for the theory of cold observed the same apples, and also proved their doctrine correct, for they said the apples were frost bitten. Each party came away satisfied, and a doubt only arose, when, after some time it was found that the same facts had led to opposite conclusions. It was then too late to make more exact observations and really settle the point at issue. Let the haste of these philosophers be a warning to you.

So much in the way of advice and warning. I need not say how much is expected of you, nor what efforts it will require on your part to attain it. The burdens which duty and your own ambition to succeed impose upon you will quickly inform you.

The several members of the faculty have labored to give you such an outfit of mental culture as will enable you to meet, on equal ground, the young men who go forth from other institutions. Let there be only such rivalry between you and them as to which can best discharge his duty to himself, the profession and humanity. This sort of emulation will bless you without injuring them. I have only, then, to say, God bless you,—may all your efforts be for good, and may success attend them.

THE ADDRESS
OF
JOS. TABER JOHNSON, A. M., M. D.,

"Orator" Medical Society of the Alumni.

MR. PRESIDENT,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

In the practice of some of the ancient Universities of Continental Europe it was the custom to present the medical graduate on the day on which he gained his doctorship with a ring, a barette, an open and a shut book. The ring betokened the solemn espousal of the young graduate to the medical profession. The barette indicated that he was at the same time set apart and consecrated as a priest to science. The open book was given as an emblem of the things already taught him, while the more significant closed volume with which he was presented was meant to typify that far longer and greater extent of professional knowledge which it was yet the study and business of his life to acquire.

While our College to-day has not followed this ancient example, yet it has with equal solemnity given into the sacred keeping of its Alumni a parchment certificate, signed by each member of its Faculty, with the great seal of the University attached, certifying to the world that its graduates are prepared to diagnose and treat the many ills which afflict the human race.

It is fully a quarter of a century since this now well established Medical College began to send forth its graduates, and we are cheered by intelligence, not only from all parts

of our own land, but from other nations, of their usefulness and success. Those who have lingered near their *a'ma mater*, numbering about one hundred in all, have banded themselves together into a Medical Society of the Alumni, at whose meetings they cultivate a stronger fraternal regard, discuss medical questions, and seek to promote not only the best interests of their Society, but those of the College from which they graduated.

This is the fifth commencement occasion in which your Alumni have been invited to participate, and for this pleasant recognition you are thanked for the fifth time to-day—thanked for your friendly, I might say fatherly, regard exhibited to us personally and as a society. It is my agreeable privilege upon this public occasion, in the name of your Alumni, whose mouthpiece I am, and I thank them for the honor, to bring to you their affectionate remembrances, and also their renewed assurances of unabated interest in the future growth and increasing success of the College over which you have for so many years presided.

To the successful continuance of our Society, and the accomplishment of its high objects, I invite the hearty co-operation of the present graduating class. From those of you who remain in Washington we hope for mutual friendship and benefit, and as you enter the life of competition among us, we of the Alumni hold out to you the welcoming and friendly hand.

The world flatters and fawns upon successful men in all the honorable, and I am sorry to say, some of the dishonorable callings in life. No one finds it difficult to secure recognition and friendly regard after success has been won, but my friends, the road to success is a hard one,—a thorny one, and the self-denial and toil necessary to gain success is frequently irksome, and accompanied by many heart burnings and discouragements. But, after all, we are told by those who have struggled and fought, but finally conquered, that the victory is glorious, and well worth the price it has cost. The entrance of our graduates into practice is facili-

tated by the existence of this friendly society, and may it be a prominent object with us all to promote the growth of a still stronger fraternal regard.

Our lot, that is, the lot of the Associated Alumni, is cast in this city, the capital of the nation, and it is here that we are to sink or swim, survive or perish, by the practice of the profession whose principles we have all learned from the Professors upon this platform. We have been told, as we entered College, that this great capital city offered peculiar advantages to the student, and subsequently to the practitioner of medicine. The great value of the Library of Congress and of the Army Medical Museum; the presence in our midst of the Congress of our country, the focus from which emanates the laws and political influence of our nation; the residence among us of so many distinguished men, with their educated families; of the highest medical officers of the army and navy; of the scientific men of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Coast Survey and the National Observatory, have all been given to us as examples of the advantages of a residence in this city.

It has frequently been pointed out that this, in preference to all other cities in America, is the location for a grand National University, founded upon the broadest possible basis, and teaching all branches of learning. We have been reminded of our proximity to the National Soldiers' Home, and to the National Hospital for the Insane, of our great Government Departments, beautifying our streets with their marble and granite buildings, of our several Hospitals, Cliniques and Dispensaries. These "unsurpassed advantages," as they are called, have been enumerated so many times in the College prospectus, newspaper advertisement, and in commencement addresses, that those accustomed to their repetition are tempted to smile as their ears again catch the familiar phrases.

But, gentlemen of the Alumni, we have been wrong; we have neglected great opportunities which possibly some of us may never again have the time at our disposal to improve.

And, in the few moments allotted to this address, I wish to draw your attention to the conspicuous place we occupy in the nation by virtue of our residence, and to the responsibilities which I conceive to be resting upon us, as a part of the medical profession of our city. It is everywhere recognized to be a man's duty, as well as privilege, to make as much out of himself as in him lies.

Our failures in life affect so many interests beside our own, that if in our power honestly to prevent it, we have no right to fail. We have Divine authority for judging a man according to the light which he hath. The existence, then, in our midst of the extensive Anatomical and Pathological Museum, maintained at great expense by the U. S. Government, of the Army Medical Library of 60,000 volumes, and of the Library of Congress with its more than 300,000 volumes, throws upon us responsibilities commensurate with our opportunities for gaining knowledge concerning the nature, diagnosis and treatment of disease. In view of these facts, I maintain that few cities in this country offer to medical men, good, true, studious men, advantages such as are lying within the easy reach of every resident Alumnus of this College; but these great opportunities are for those sufficiently great to grasp and improve them.

To most young men entering upon the duties of their profession, for the first few years after graduation, the prospect before them is most perplexing. They see every avenue to prosperity thronged with their superiors in experience, in social advantages, and in the possession of all the elements and conditions of success. Every post is occupied, every office filled, every path crowded;—where shall they find room?

It is related of Mr. Webster, that when a young lawyer suggested to him that the profession to which he had devoted himself was overcrowded, the great man replied, "Young man, there is always room enough at the top." Dr. Holland, who relates this circumstance, says there never was a wiser or more suggestive word. There undoubtedly is always

room enough where true excellence lives. Mr. Webster was not troubled for lack of room. Mr. Clay and Mr. Calhoun were never crowded. Mr. Evarts, Mr. Cushing, Mr. O'Connor, have plenty of space about them. Dr. Brown-Séquard, Dr. Marion Sims, Dr. Fordyce Barker, are not troubled for space for *their* elbows. When Neleton died in Paris he died like Moses, upon a mountain, and when Von Graaf died in Berlin, he had no neighbor in his altitude. There is another point which ought not to be overlooked in the treatment of this subject, especially at this particular time in the history of our country, and in this city, where so much political and diplomatic management is required to secure justice and reward merit, while at the same time it as frequently succeeds in making the lesser appear the greater good. "Young men look about them and see a great measure of worldly success awarded to men without principle." They see the trickster crowned with public honors, they see the swindler rolling in wealth over our pavements, out of which, and out of us, they have accumulated their ill-gotten gain. "They see the sharp man, the unprincipled man, the overreaching man, the liar, the time-servyer, the demagogue, the scoundrel who cunningly manages, carrying off the prizes of wealth and place. All this is a demoralizing puzzle and a fearful temptation, and multitudes of young men are not strong enough to stand before it. They ought to understand that in this wicked world there is a great deal of room where there is integrity. "Great trusts may be sought by scoundrels, (and we are so unfortunate in this respect as to live in the atmosphere of this kind of corruption much of our time,) but great trusts never seek them, and perfect integrity is at a premium even among scoundrels. There are some trusts which they never will confer upon each other. There are occasions when they need the services of true men, and they do not find them in shoals and in the mud, but alone and in pure water."

No exalted medical standing in this or any other community can be acquired and maintained except by a free ex-

penditure of hard work. We are informed by successful men that when really hard medical or any literary work is reduced to a system, it becomes less a work and more of a pleasure, for in any man, however brilliant he may have become, the habit itself is more of a conquest gained by self-discipline than a quality conferred by nature. It is more an acquired than an original power and attribute of the mind. The finished and perfect statue can only be elaborated from the block by hundreds and thousands of patient and assiduous strokes of the chisel. Your professional character and knowledge can only be elaborated by a similar course of unremitting diligence and labor. For in medicine, as in other avocations, be assured that no man ever reached, and that no man ever can reach, great reputation and great excellence without great exertion. One of the greatest physicians of this century declares that "with the necessary exertion the humblest among us are certain to rise, without it the highest among us are just as certain to fall." No man ever became a Hunter without work. No man ever became an Erichsen without work. No man ever became a Mott, a Meigs, a Flint, without hard, unremitting work, and none of us in Washington can find a more royal road to learning, to skill, or to a high place in the esteem of our fellow citizens.

In glancing over the biography of one of the most busy and successful physicians in New York during our revolutionary struggle, we are informed that "the career of Dr. David Hossack will ever remain to the youth of the country a bright example of the influence which industry, talent and energy have in the attainment of reputation and fame."

Dr. Hossack had continued after graduation habits of diligent study. The circumstance to which he in after life ascribed the beginning of his good fortunes was his sudden acquaintance with General Alexander Hamilton, the friend of Washington. Hamilton was so much pleased with the young doctor that he made him his family physician, and through his friends and acquaintances brought him almost

at once prominently into notice. Being worthy of all the trusts imposed, he rapidly became one of the foremost physicians of that great metropolis. This friendship of the gallant General would never have been bestowed and continued through life had it not been thoroughly deserved. No city is so favorable to-day for the formation of such valuable acquaintances and friendships as Washington. It remains for us to be worthy of them, and they will, they must of necessity come if we are so.

There is no profession, however, in which persevering honesty and virtue is its own reward more than in ours. Great fortunes are seldom made by the practice of medicine. We have the authority, however, of Sir Benjamin Brodie for saying that "no young physician who uses the means proper for the purpose will fail to succeed sufficiently to gratify a reasonable ambition." "You must," he says, "persevere, and you may do so in the full assurance that the reward, though possibly delayed for a time, yet it will surely come." This prince of surgeons was, he writes to a friend, "at one time dismayed at the prospect before him, and almost discouraged." He persevered, however, and in after life from the top of the ladder of fame addressed these encouraging words to faint-hearted beginners just commencing to ascend. The biographies of distinguished medical men give us many examples of the rich rewards which follow honest, studious effort. Dr. John Cheyne, who about fifty years ago was by far the busiest and best employed physician in Dublin, tells us in his interesting autobiography that during the first half of his second year's settlement in the Irish capital, and when he had already reached the thirty-fourth year of his age, his fees only amounted to about three guineas. Nine years subsequently he was making £5,000 annually. Not above one or two physicians in London ever drew a larger professional income, or perhaps ever advanced more early into full practice than Dr. Chambers, yet during the fifth year of his practice, when he was already thirty-five years of age, he did not receive above £211 in fees; seventeen years subsequently

his annual professional income is stated to have reached nearly £9,000. His great predecessor in London practice, Dr. Matthew Baillie, drew above £11,000 in one year, and yet, with all the interest of the Hunters and others to aid him in his outset, his march upwards was, like that of all others, very slow and difficult, and before he found himself fairly established in practice he had been already for twelve years physician to St. George's Hospital, and for nearly twenty years a medical lecturer. The great Hunter, who later in life founded the Hunterian Museum, was once obliged to postpone for two weeks the commencing of his third session of lectures in consequence of his not having money enough to pay the expense of the usual class advertisements.

In 1788 we learn that the son of an English clergyman attended the medical classes at Edinboro University, and lived in rooms in Bristo street, which cost him three shillings and sixpence a week. In after life, when swaying the surgical sceptre of England as Sir Astley Cooper, his professional income, in a single year, amounted to £23,000; and yet during the first twelve months after he settled down in London as a lecturer on anatomy and surgery, his receipts from private practice only amounted to five guineas.

Thus it is, gentlemen of the Alumni, and gentlemen of the graduating class, that faithful, hard working, studious men climb, step by step, through the envious, crowded pathways of life to the "top," where, according to Webster, "there is plenty of room," and where fame and glory and fortune await them; and thus it is I would have you, many, all of you if possible, by the same, and only true process, work your way up into that purer and more cultured atmosphere nearer the "top." Thus it will be as the individual Alumni take rank, they will reflect back credit upon their *alma mater*. They will add lustre to its renown as they brighten their own. I would see our Alumni Society in the future famous by the borrowed fame of its great men. I would see it the pride and the glory of its members, increasing in power and influence because of the fame of its mem-

bers. I would see it banded firmly together and working earnestly for the advancement of medical science, the interests of its members, and the future growth and welfare of the parent College.

THE ADDRESS
OF
JOHN M. GREEN, M. D.,

Valedictorian of the Class of 1875.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The last scene in the last act of the College drama is finished. The initial ceremonies, wedding a band of associates and fellow students to the sacred cause of humanity and science, are concluded. It were scarcely necessary for the class to tender a heartfelt greeting after the welcome extended by the Faculty orator.

To the public the occasion seems but a regularly recurring event; to us it is an era, and eagerly, earnestly have we looked forward to the present moment as indicating the pleasures of hope realized. It signalizes the first grand epoch of our career. The decision of the Faculty has been announced, and henceforth we are enrolled in that long list of human benefactors that extends in an unbroken chain back to the days of heroes and demi gods, and whose earliest traditions blend with the mythological romance of ancient worship. The healing art has existed since time immemorial, and is inseparably associated with civilization with which it has marched handelased in common with other branches of knowledge. The great minds of successive ages have lent their radiance to illumine the paths wherein we tread.

Assyria, Phœnicia, Egypt, nurtured its infancy, and from the latter it winged its flight to Greece, where arose those

brilliant expounders and successful investigators into the arcana of nature. Rome at a subsequent period furnished numerous devotees at nature's altar, and the names of Galen, Aretaeus, Aurelianus and Soranus stand prominent. The results of their labors furnished a basis upon which has been erected a superstructure, grand in its proportions and wonderful in design.

Schools of medicine and philosophy established by Pythagoras, and his followers existed, at Rhodes, Cnidus, Sais, Cos flourished, and the latter gave birth to Hippocrates, whose persevering, systematic talents shall ever render his name synonymous with medicine. His advent marked an era, and the genius of medicine, bursting the fetters that bound her to the superstitious and absurd practices of antiquity, issued forth for the benefit of mankind, and enlisted in her cause the greatest minds of the age. Countless have been their followers and emulators, and though they passed away ere they saw their life-work accomplished, they have left to the admiring gaze of the student of history and scientific investigator

"Images and thoughts that could but live
And would not die."

To throw off the shackles that sorcery, chiromancy, alchemy, empiricism had imposed were a matter of no easy task, and at a period too when they were even doubting or holding in uneven balance self-evident truths and facts. Vestiges, and not a few, still remain to mark their progress and decline, a sad comment upon a civilization characterized by such marvelous and surprising advances in the domains of scientific culture.

The mind in its extensive circlings finds no more profound and delightful theme for contemplation than the grand mystery life presents. Nature in the very lowest organism furnishes abundant material to excite the admiration and rivet the attention. The vital principle holding in abeyance the life of all creatures is an element more subtle, difficult of comprehension, and, consequently, requires closer scrutiny

and more searching investigation than all beside. It suffers not imitation, no matter how insatiable the enthusiasm or how ingeniously the experiments are contrived, and is exemplified from our own perfect organization down to the primordial cell. Homogeneous in all animated creation, it exerts its peculiar influence from the mastodon, mammoth down to the polyp that builds the coral reefs in the "distant dark blue ocean," to the Medusa that sparkles in the briny wave, shedding its phosphorescent light in streaming splendor, to the velvety lichen that covers the time-worn rock, exhibiting the very lowest form of life,

"From link to link

It circulates, the soul of all the worlds."

The theory of the origin and evolution of life, bewildering scientists, enlisting the genius and talents of a Huxley, a Spencer, a Tyndall, and many more, only interests us in the abstract, it is more particularly our duty to preserve it in its beauty and vigor.

The smallest single monad proves the subject matter of most intense interest. How much more so must be the most perfect and complex structure of man, indeed "fearfully and wonderfully made."

With Buffon, we may exclaim that man brings together within himself, all the powers of nature, possessing those distinguishing characteristics, placing him pre-eminently above all others in the animal kingdom, the high attributes of reason, intellect, soul, bringing him into communion with a world separate and distinct from the world of sense. He controls the destinies of nations, wields the sceptre of royalty, holds the reins of government, and enjoys the bounteous favor of Providence, doing good to his fellow man, and exalting by rational discipline, his own character and the condition of the race. Naturally then, must the skill of the physician be recognized and indelibly impressed in counteracting disease, supporting the tottering throne of reason and placing judgment on the high seat.

The causes aiding to retard the progressive tendency of

medicine, sanctioned by public applause and encouragement, are more than few. Scepticism, true to the Pyrrhonian philosophy, proves one of the most formidable. The many devices of the typographical art assist wonderfully. The flaring poster, in blazoned and gorgeous colors, attracts the attention and captivates the unsuspecting. The public press contributes its mighty influence to fill the coffers of charlatans, to the corresponding detriment of deserving, able and skillful physicians. Evil and designing men, shielded by a title undeserved, play upon the credulity of the laity, and promulgate their absurd heresies and doctrines, plausible to the untutored mind, which die not with their authors, but, Arethusa like, having lost their current in one place, appear again in another.

Various systems and theories of practice have arisen and vanished like exhalations. Hydropathy and numerous other "pathies," shall share the same fate, including the last and greatest delusion, homœopathy, which claims, as did the famous Dr. Hornbrook, to

"So fortify the part,
That when death looked to his dart,
It was so blunt
It never could have pierced the heart."

The regular profession has been fostered and sustained by unswerving fidelity to rational principles. Discarding everything bearing upon it the impress of charlatanism, or unable to stand the test of scientific investigation. It does not pretend, although accused, to reconcile vice and intemperance with health and comfort, the strict adherence to hygienic laws and conditions, added to an innate love of religious principles, only avails here; vice and intemperance must ever be the twin sisters of disease and death.

Rational medicine never fails to inculcate that we are the interpreters, not the masters, of nature; that it is able, in numberless instances and in divers ways, to give such advice and counsel, as will assist the *vis medicatrix nature*, by ministering such remedies and appliances as the necessities

and circumstances of the emergency demand. It does all that it claims, and though the Rosicrucian dream has never been realized, myriads of human beings, racked and tortured by ills the flesh is heir to, have been rescued from the grasp of the destroying angel and restored to health and happiness.

How many there are who owe their existence to its timely aid and support, and how few they are who appreciate the labors of the true physician, fully illustrates that

“God and the Doctor we alike adore,
Only when in danger, not before:
The danger o’er, both are alike requited,
God is forgotten and the Doctor slighted.”

Ever willing have been the votaries of medicine to afford their best efforts for the benefit of their fellow man, alike in the mansions of the rich, the hovels of the poor, in courts of famine and palaces of luxury, they ply their art. Regard for self has ever been a secondary consideration, giving the same attention to all, indiscriminately. Their daily visits lead where impending

“Death,
The pale monarch sits
In unsubstantial majesty.”

Few comprehend the hardships, the privations and endless labors of a medical life, and actual statistical computations have given them the lowest average longevity among the professions. Silently they perform their duties, and as silently depart, leaving a name proportioned to their merits.

In what an astonishing age have we made our debut in the great arena of professional life, how many theories or systems, hoary with age, to whose difficult solution thousands have devoted their lives, have been overturned or explained by the intellects that have made the 19th century the most brilliant one in the annals of science. In the words of Disraeli, “science within the last fifty years has had much more influence in moulding the world than any political causes, and has changed the position and prospects of

mankind more than all the conquests and all the codes and all the legislators that ever lived."

The geologist is diving into the very depths of the earth and disclosing the different strata composing it. The astronomer's telescope penetrates farther into the realms of illimitable space. The metaphysician argues with greater scientific exactness. The chemist subjects everything to the test of the crucible. Spectrum analysis promises to reveal substances as yet unrecognizable, while the anatomist and pathologist, microscope in hand, wait upon nature at her very fountain head, and almost gaze, as it were, upon formative creation. Various instruments are devised, each possessing their own peculiar advantages, exhibiting more forcibly than words could express the onward march of medicine.

Disease is but a step from health, and but a step to the grave. Insidious and unmistakable precursors mark its approach. The mind that has quaffed the waters and drunk deep draughts of the Pierian spring, finds a diminished power of concentration. The beautifully symmetrical form which seems the very embodiment of health wastes away under the influence of the fell destroyer. Different senses, or certain functions are altered, all tending to the same end. The prevention of such alterations, and the preservation of health fully attest the value and importance of the profession to the community.

The physician, in this day, has a higher duty to perform than the simple administration of a medicine, or some sweet oblivious antidote. It devolves upon him, as a sanitarian and benefactor of humanity, that the interests of the public health shall be of paramount importance, and he should become an instructor of the populace in the results of his observations. This fact is being realized, and the establishment of Boards of Health fully exhibits the interest of the laity in the absolute necessity for such institutions.

The great march of progress, distinguishing all the arts

and sciences, has given birth to new facts, and put to flight the theories of the purely speculative philosopher. An impetus has been given to human research, which has discovered new paths for the efforts of the earnest investigator. It has pointed out, in the invisible world of thought, data that shall be valuable accessions, and has developed a confidence in natural abilities such as will eventually place medicine where it should be, among the certain and fixed sciences. Perfection is not to be hoped for, as such does not characterize the works of man. "It is doubtful whether we have reached the border line in any subject of learned inquiry or department of scientific investigation."

Upon the public devolves, in a great measure, the success of all endeavors, and particularly true is it of medicine. The people should be instructed in the laws of hygiene and physiology. With all the boasted intelligence of this age, when thousands can inform you in geology, the motions of the planets, the correlation and conservation of forces, can quote or read Aeschylus, Virgil, Homer, or the other classics perfectly, there are but few who are actually acquainted with the simplest sanitary laws.

In diet, dress, customs, habits and fashions the true dictates of science are set at naught, and consequently we have disease the rule and health the exception. Such ought not, should not, be the case, and the only remedy lies in the general diffusion of proper intelligence among the masses.

The physician recognizes the power of woman's hand in the treatment and cure of disease. The support imparted by her in many acts of benevolence and self-sacrifice accomplishes as much as medication. Possessing that "meek charity that shrinks not from distress," she assumes a post that affection robs of all its weariness. Her eyes, often beaming with a look of cheerfulness she cannot feel, and encouraging the hope she cannot confidently share, she scatters sunshine in her path and throws a veil of gladness around the sufferer's couch that robs disease of half its misery.

The great achievements of modern medicine as exhibited

in the discovery of the circulation, rendering the name of Harvey immortal; the employment of anæsthetics crowning Simpson, Morton and Wells with laurels evergreen. The perfection of physical exploration redounding enduring fame to Laennec; the introduction of vaccination, and its wonderful influence in controlling the most loathsome of scourges, inscribing the name of Jenner in every household and heart.

The brilliant and successful investigations of the German, French and English physicians of the present day, marvelous and wonderful, are possibly fully equaled by their transatlantic brethren, America pointing with just and honest pride to many names shedding an undying lustre and brilliance upon not alone medicine, but all the arts and sciences.

Experiment and demonstration proclaim the philosophy of the age, and the many contributions of mechanical skill and ingenuity and numerous additions to the *materia medica*, all illustrate that ignorance, bigotry and superstition, forming an unholy trinity, are slowly, but surely, receding before the irresistible influences of religion, learning and true philosophy.

REVERED PRESIDENT:

In receiving from your hands the evidence and stamp of our ability, we can only, as yet, express our obligations and love for our *alma mater*, with the hope that we may prove offspring worthy and creditable. Happy indeed are we to be scions of a mother ever anxious that the humblest of her sons should be an object of her special care. May she prosper for all time, and may her medical department continue to merit the high appreciation and encouragement it has always received.

GENTLEMEN OF THE FACULTY:

The relations that have heretofore bound us are to-day dissolved. Never have we realized so fully as at the present moment the strength of the ties which linked us in

heart and feeling. To-day, profiting by your teachings and admonitions, we have reached the goal of expectation. In performing the last duty of our class, I fain would give utterance to the feelings of gratitude cherished by each of us toward you. Other classes will come and go, other friendships and affections will weave their meshes round you, other themes and associations will cluster round your progress through life, still we claim a bright spot in your memory, a reserved portion of your hearts.

The generous expressions, and words of encouragement uttered by you, through your representative orator, will ever remain as never fading stars in our memories. The earnest, valuable advice will ever recur to us, and when in life's stormy sea, tossed about by the winds of adversity, they will be as the beacon lights, guiding our frail barks in safety through the billowy surge. When

"With stumbling steps along the dubious maze,
Tracing with half seen thread the darksome ways,"

they will be as gentle music wafted in mellow cadence, bidding us hope, toil on, persevere, success and reputation must crown deserved efforts.

Should any of us, in future years, return to greet our *alma mater*, may we bring with us the trophies of a life well spent, filled to repletion with scientific knowledge and honors, the germs of which we have been fortunate to imbibe from your vast stores. We trust we have been faithful and industrious students. Our labors have always been those of love for our profession, and devotion to yourselves.

May Providence shower its greatest, divinest favors, may you be spared to assist many future classes in the arduous and difficult task of mastering our beloved profession, and may your names "go sounding down the ages," rich in reputation and surrounded by a halo radiant with worthy deeds. It is difficult for one voice to utter the love and admiration that is welling up and bubbling forth from all these several hearts. They, individually, will grasp your

hand and utter the parting word. The bright, joyous scenes of our student life must now forever cease.

“Like the shadows of night at the dawning of day,
Like a tale that is told, they vanish away.”

FAREWELL.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:

In welcoming us as fellow-graduates, you will accept our hearty appreciation of the honor. We hope to become deserving and useful acquisitions to your phalanx of worthy and prominent physicians.

GENTLEMEN OF THE JUNIOR CLASS:

In severing the connections of the past, it is not without a pang of sorrow. In loosening the ties that friendship has so firmly interwoven, we cannot help regret the necessity that bids us part. Your kindness shall never be forgotten, and we trust that the many acts of generosity that have characterized your demeanor to us, will be extended by future classes to you. We wish particularly to return thanks for your chivalric attention to our friends to-day.

The successful prosecution of the study of medicine depends upon your own exertions. Deserve what you aspire to, and time will bring its rich rewards. Memory and hope must supplant the keen sense of our present separation, and the happy hours spent in your society will ever remain as perennial fountains reviving pleasant reminiscences of happy by-gone days. Farewell.

FELLOW-CLASSMATES:

Can it be that we, too, must separate? Can it be that the electric chain linking each heart together shall henceforth cease to complete its circuit? The thought, however repulsive, is nevertheless true. Companions in college life, co-laborers in the same vineyard, our immediate task is finished. Be impressed, and let it be written in characters of adamant, that to-day but commences our career as real, earnest, conscientious students, seeking in every direction

to discern the truth and cluster the gems of our noble profession.

We should evince our devotion by unceasing, untiring industry and application. Seek the least frequented paths; mediocrity always hovers o'er routine practitioners. Having caught the spirit of the age, strive on; and though our advance may not always march to the music of your aspirations, and disappointment and despair stare us, nevertheless, eventually will be accorded that reward that always crowns true merit, the praise and approbation of our fellow-man. There awaits you, if you but pursue them, honors as great as decked the brow of *Æsculapius*, *Podalirus* or *Hippocrates*, of ancient times, or of *Jenner*, *Simpson* or *Nélaton*, of modern. Reputation depends not upon the evanescent applause of the multitude—peers alone are able to estimate our abilities. Cultivate the friendship and society of your fellow physicians. Medical associations, whether national or local, are of inestimable advantage to the young physician, bringing him into co-relation with the profession, and strengthening the ties and bonds wrought by a common brotherhood in a common cause. Hygiene and sanitary laws, questions agitating the world of medicine, should claim an important share of our attention.

Quackery, in all its protean shapes, must be abhorred, wherever or on whatever occasion it may intrude.

Providence appoints us artificers of our own fortunes. Diligence, integrity of character, enterprise and ceaseless perseverance must be our traits. These qualities must be part and parcel of our natures: one or other of them has prompted every worthy deed of history and governed every discovery of science. They inspired *Harvey* to resist the opposing influences of his time; nerved *Jenner*, and assisted *Bell* in elaborating his grand discoveries.

The magnificent portals of the Temple of Science are opened to us. We stand upon the threshold, and in retrospect appear flashing as meteors through a darkened sky the golden hours passed. In endeavoring to penetrate the

misty veil of the future doubt and uncertainty arise. Do not, however, be alarmed; let us throw aside our golden fantasies and dreams and commence to advance. There lies concealed within

“Many a gem of purest ray serene,”

that needs but the quick eye and ready hand of industrious youth to discover.

We are bewildered, as it were, when we reflect that true medical science is a modern institution. That for ages men groped their way in darkness, without daring to dissect a human body, that the most absurd and imperfect ideas as to its mechanism and construction were entertained, that the edicts of Galen held undisputed sway for ages, that the only mode recognized or known by the dignitaries of Rome to control a pestilence was in erecting a temple to *Æsculapius* or driving a nail in the Capitol; that all the grandest discoveries have been the outgrowth of a few centuries should be an incentive to push still farther, and penetrate still deeper into the recesses of nature, seeking her innermost haunts and exposing to the broad light of day her most favored secrets.

Microscopy in this era almost enables us to trace every link of morbid action, and expose to view the minutest atoms of living organisms. Look well to the foundation stones, upon these depend the strength and durability of the structure. Labor intellectually, and do not allow the minor details, the fine æsthetic touches of science to escape scrutiny. To add one stone, to inscribe one fact in the temple of medicine will redound enduring laurels and world-wide fame. Philanthropy and charity, “earth’s link to heaven,” must be predominant characteristics. Entertain an exalted view of our profession, be jealous of its interests, and ready to defend its honor. We would not deserve to succeed did we lack these qualities. Principle will be our security. Be honest in communication with patients. No avocation, no relation places one in such intimate and confidential association with family circles.

Our merits will proclaim our capabilities. Seek not, by means dark and dishonorable, to gain popularity. Remember that ill-gotten fame and false glitter fade with the first rays of living truth, and, like the fabled echo, die away into empty sound.

Gentlemen, in departing and separating, different destinies await us all. Resist temptations, they will be many. It might be said that medical science and art is a

“Golden and fatal circle,
Upon whose magic skirts a thousand devils,
In crystal forms sit, tempting innocence,
And beckoning early virtue from its centre.”

All seems, however, propitious. Our *alma mater* sends us forth with the highest encomiums, our own self-consciousness encourages, and beauty showers her most radiant smile. I have no fear for the superstructure; the tempests of calumny may assail it, the floods of ignorance and superstition deal roughly with it, but its foundations are too firm, and bid defiance to all opposing causes.

“The feeble sea birds, blinded by the storms,
On some tall lighthouse dash their little forms,
And the nude granite scatters for their pains
Those small deposits, that were meant for brains;
Yet the proud fabric, in the morning sun,
Stands all unconscious of the mischief done,
Nay, shines all radiance o’er the scattered fleet,
Of gulls and boobies, brainless at its feet.”

Now, farewell. ’Tis a sad, bitter word, and harbingers the ruthless dissolution of firm friendships and pleasant associations. The heart finds itself unable to give utterance to the feelings that overwhelm it. It dare not trust to words its fondest hopes and purest affections. It can only breathe the fervent prayer to the Being that shapes our fortunes, that His hand may guide us, His friendship be our safeguard, and His blessing attend our future pathway in life. Farewell.

GRADUATES.

CLASS OF 1875.

BOARDMAN, MYRON, TRUMANSBURG, N. Y.
Bromide of Potassium.

GREEN, JOHN MATTHEW, WASHINGTON, D. C.
White Blood Corpuscle.

HARVEY, LEVIN ALLEN, MOOREFIELD, OHIO.
Phthisis Pulmonalis.

KELLY, DANIEL JAMES, A. M., LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND.
Inflammation.

STEPHENSON, JOSEPH GWYNN, WASHINGTON, D. C.
Intermittent Fever.

THOMPSON, JOHN HARRY, JR., WASHINGTON, D. C.
Action of the Heart.

STUDENTS.

ADAMS, EDWARD H.,	U. S. Naval Hospital.
ADAMS, W.,	Maryland.
ANGLES, MIGUEL,	Italy.
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BINNS, DOUGLAS,	Chillicothe, Ohio.
BOARDMAN, MYRON,	Trumansburg, N. Y.
BOYCE, WALTER J.,	Washington, D. C.
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CHRISTIAN, M. O.,	Cleveland, Ohio.
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EATON, J. S. J.,	Elkhorn, Wis.
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GIESEKING, HENRY,	Washington, D. C.
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WESTCOTT, J. B.,	New York.
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OF
Georgetown University.

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J. WALTER, M. D.,

Clinical Lecturer, Diseases of Children.

THE SUMMER SESSION will begin April 15, and end July 15, 1875.

THE COURSE OF INSTRUCTION will embody Clinics and Examinations, to be held on three days of each week, from 6 to 8 P. M.

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THE LECTURES are delivered daily at 5:30 P. M. This arrangement has been found most convenient for the students, especially for those who are employed in the various Government Departments.

THE COLLEGE BUILDINGS contain spacious Lecture Rooms and all other conveniences requisite for the prosecution of the study of Medicine and Surgery.

CLINICAL INSTRUCTION.—During the course ample opportunity will be afforded the students for Clinical Instruction, which is free to the Matriculants of the Institution. This instruction will be furnished at the different hospitals of the city; and, besides the Clinical Lectures there given, a Dispensary connected with the College Building affords great facilities for the study of disease. It will thus be seen that this valuable element of teaching is a chief feature in the curriculum.

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MUSEUMS.—The Army Medical Museum, adjacent to the College Building, contains the most valuable collection of Surgical and Medical Pathological Specimens in the world, and embodies the results of the medical and surgical experience gathered from the various hospitals and battle-fields of the late war. This collection is constantly being increased. The Smithsonian Museum, which has a national reputation, contains one of the finest collections of Zoological Specimens on the continent, thus affording ample opportunities for the study of Natural History and Comparative Anatomy. Its collection of Crania is in itself an important feature. The Museum of the Agricultural Department, and its Conservatories, containing magnificent collections of tropical and semi-tropical plants, offer rare facilities to the student of Medical Botany.

LIBRARIES.—The Congressional Library, the largest in the country, open daily to the public, places within the reach of the student rare works which otherwise would be difficult to obtain. The Smithsonian Library, celebrated for its scientific volumes, can be reached with equal facility. The Library of the Army Medical Museum, solely devoted to medicine and surgery, contains nearly forty thousand volumes. This is adjacent to the College, and is open daily to the students.

General Rules for the Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

1. The Candidate must be of good moral character.
2. He must have studied medicine not less than three years, during which he shall have attended two full courses of instruction, delivered in some regular Medical School, one of which shall have been in this Institution.
3. He must have attended at least one course of Practical Anatomy, and one course of Clinical Instruction.
4. He must have submitted to the Faculty an acceptable thesis, in his own handwriting, on some medical subject, and must have subsequently passed a satisfactory examination.

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For the Full Course of Lectures.....	\$135
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Graduation.....	30
Single Ticket.....	20

Payment of fees is required at the commencement of the session.

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